

Message Text

PAGE 01 NATO 02095 01 OF 02 161908Z

67

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 USNATO 2095

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, NAC, MPOL, BEXP

SUBJECT: NAC MEETING 16 APR 75: AGENDA ITEM II - NATO AIRBORNE
RADAR SYSTEM

BEGIN SUMMARY: DR TUCKER (ASY FOR DEFENSE SUPPORT) PRESENTED
AN INFORMATION/STATUS REPORT ON THE NATO AIRBORNE RADAR SYSTEM
(ARS) TO THE NAC ON 16 APRIL. THE PURPOSE WAS TO INTRODUCE THE
SUBJECT IN PREPARATION FOR MAY MINISTERIALS. ADMIRAL SIR PETER
HILL-NORTON, MC CHAIRMAN, DISCUSSED A JOINT MNC STATEMENT ON
THE REQUIREMENT FOR SUCH A SYSTEM. TUCKER AND HILL-NORTON
EXPECT THE CNAD AND MC TO RECOMMEND THAT MINISTERS RECOGNIZE
THE REQUIREMENT AND ENDORSE A FULL TIME EMBRYONIC PROJECT
OFFICE AND CONTRACT STUDIES TO PREPARE A SPECIFIC PROPOSAL
FOR MINISTERS IN DEC 75. MOST OF THE ENSUING DISCUSSION
CENTERED ON A QUESTION RAISED BY DE STAERCKE (BELGIUM)
I.E., THAT SINCE AN ARS IMPROVES THE EFFECTIVENESS OF
OTHER AIR DEFENSE SYSTEMS, WOULD THERE BE SAVINGS IN
THESE OTHER AREAS? MANY REPRESENTATIVES AGREED THAT IT
WOULD BE NECESSARY TO SHOW SAVINGS SOMEWHERE TO GAIN
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PAGE 02 NATO 02095 01 OF 02 161908Z

APPROVAL FOR SUCH AN EXPENSIVE PROGRAM. THE COUNCIL NOTED
THAT THE RUSSIANS ALREADY HAVE AN EQUIVALENT SYSTEM IN
THE AIR. END SUMMARY.

1. SYG LUNS INTRODUCED AGENDA ITEM II, NATO AIRBORNE RADAR SYSTEM, (WHICH WAS TAKEN FIRST ON THE AGENDA) BY NOTING THAT THE SUBJECT WAS AT THE TOP OF A SHORT LIST OF STANDARDIZATION AREAS FOR NATO CONCENTRATION APPROVED BY DEFENSE MINISTERS AT THEIR LAST TWO MEETINGS. HE POINTED OUT THAT BOTH THE CNAD AND MILITARY COMMITTEE WERE EXPECTED TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE SUBJECT TO DEFENSE MINISTERS IN MAY AND THAT DR TUCKER (ASSISTANT SYG FOR DEFENSE SUPPORT) WAS PRESENTING A PRELIMINARY REPORT TO THE COUNCIL AT THIS TIME BECAUSE OF THE SHORT TIME INTERVAL BETWEEN THE APRIL CNAD AND MAY MINISTERIAL.

2. DR TUCKER PRESENTED AN EXCELLENT SUMMARY REPORT ON THE MANY NATO ACTIVITIES LEADING TOWARD NATO ACQUISITION OF SUCH A SYSTEM. HE STRESSED THAT THE LOW LEVEL GAP IN NADGE RADAR COVERAGE WAS POSSIBLY THE MOST SERIOUS DEFICIENCY IN NATO'S DEFENSES, BUT THAT CORRECTING THIS DEFICIENCY WITH AN AIRBORNE RADAR SYSTEM (ARS) WAS NOW TECHNICALLY FEASIBLE. HE STATED THAT CNAD STUDIES SHOWED ARS TO BE A COST EFFECTIVE PART OF THE MIX OF AIR DEFENSE WEAPONS FOR THE NEXT DECADE. DR. TUCKER POINTED OUT THAT ARS WAS A LOGICAL CANDIDATE FOR COMMON FUNDING AND THAT IF NATO EMBARKED ON SUCH A PROGRAM, IT WOULD BE THE LARGEST SINGLE COMMON PROGRAM THAT NATO HAS HAD. HE STATED THAT THE NEXT STEP WOULD BE TO DEVELOP A SPECIFIC PROPOSAL OR A PROPOSAL WITH SPECIFIC ALTERNATIVES FOR MINISTERS' CONSIDERATION IN DEC 75. TO THIS END HE EXPECTS CNAD TO RECOMMEND THAT MINISTERS ENDORSE A FULL TIME PROJECT OFFICE AND CONTRACT STUDIES AT THEIR MAY 75 MEETING. THE TEXT OF DR. TUCKER'S REPORT IS TO BE CIRCULATED AND WILL BE FORWARDED SEPTEL.

3. ADMIRAL SIR PETER HILL-NORTON (CHAIRMAN OF THE MILITARY COMMITTEE) FOLLOWED DR TUCKER WITH A SHORT STATUS REPORT. HE STATED THAT HE, DR TUCKER, AND CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 NATO 02095 01 OF 02 161908Z

THE MNCS HAD BEEN WORKING CLOSELY TOGETHER AND THE MNCS HAD JUST COMPLETED A JOINT STATEMENT ON THE ARS REQUIREMENT, WHICH THE MILITARY COMMITTEE (MC) WOULD CONSIDER ON APR 17TH. THE MC WOULD PROVIDE A PRELIMINARY VIEW ON THE JOINT STATEMENT IMMEDIATELY AND WOULD MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE MINISTERS IN MAY AFTER A DETAILED REVIEW OF THE REQUIREMENT AND FORTHCOMING CNAD RECOMMENDATIONS. HILL-NORTON STATED THAT, WHILE COSTS FOR ARS MAY SEEM ALARMING, ONLY WITH ARS WILL THE ALLIANCE BE ABLE TO REALIZE THE FULL POTENTIAL OF EVEN HIGHER INVESTMENTS IN INTERCEPTORS AND MISSILES; WITHOUT ARS IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO BUY EVEN MORE EXPENSIVE MOBILE GROUND RADARS WHICH ARE NOT AS FLEXIBLE

OR CAPABLE AS ARS.

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NATO 02095 02 OF 02 161942Z

67

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 USNATO 2095

4. SYG LUNS ADDED THAT ANY SOLUTION WHERE NATIONS "GO IT ALONE" WOULD BE LESS EFFECTIVE AND MORE EXPENSIVE AND OPENED THE FLOOR TO DISCUSSION.

5. DE STAERCKE (BELGIUM) ASKED THREE QUESTIONS, STATING THAT HE REALIZED THE ANSWERS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE AT THIS TIME: (1) ARE THE RUSSIANS GETTING A SIMILAR (ARS) SYSTEM?, (2) HOW DID DR TUCKER ENVISION THAT A COMMON FORCE WOULD BE OPERATED ? AND (3) IF ARS WAS AS COST EFFECTIVE AS DESCRIBED WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE TO REALIZE SAVINGS ELSEWHERE; E.G., FEWER LAND RADARS? HILL-NORTON ANSWERED THE FIRST BY STATING THAT THE RUSSIAN EQUIVALENT TO ARS, THE MOSS, WAS ALREADY FLYING.

6. SYG LUNS NOTED, THAT DURING A VISIT TO AFCENT, HE FOUND GENERAL FERBER VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THE SHIFT IN WARSAW PACT AIR CAPABILITY TOWARD LONG RANGE LOW LEVEL AIRCRAFT WHICH COULD EXPLOIT THE LOW LEVEL GAP IN NADGE.

7. MENZIES (CANADA) STATED HE HAD BEEN STRUCK BY THE
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NATO 02095 02 OF 02 161942Z

LOW INTERCEPTION RATE DURING A RECENT SHAPE EXERCISE
AND ASKED WHY A HIGHER RATE WAS NOT ACHIEVED. HE ALSO

ASKED HOW VULNERABLE AN ARS WAS. HILL-NORTON STATED THAT AN STC STUDY SHOWED THAT AWACS WOULD REDUCE THE NUMBER OF ATTACKING AIRCRAFT THAT REACHED THEIR TARGET BY 1/4 TO 1/3 AND INCREASE THE NUMBER OF ATTACKERS ENGAGED BY INTERCEPTORS BY 1/3 TO 2/3. HE POINTED OUT THAT THE ALTERNATIVES FOR IMPROVING INTERCEPTION RATES? MORE INTERCEPTORS AND MORE SAMS, WOULD BE MORE EXPENSIVE, AND THAT MORE DETAILED COST EFFECTIVENESS COMPARISONS WILL BE MADE. WITH RESPECT TO VULNERABILITY HE STATED THAT STC STUDIES HAVE SHOWN THAT AWACS WOULD NOT BE AN EASY TARGET TO LOCATE AND DESTROY COMPARED TO A FIXED GROUND BASED RADAR AND THAT THERE WERE A VARIETY OF SELF-DEFENSE MEASURES UNDER STUDY. SVART (DENMARK) ASKED HOW THE RUSSIANS WERE PROTECTING THEIR ARS. HILL-NORTON REPLIED THAT INTELLIGENCE WAS LOOKING AT THIS BUT HE DID NOT EXPECT THEY WOULD COME UP WITH MUCH.

8. HARTOGH (NETHERLANDS) STATED THAT DE STAERCKE'S THIRD QUESTION CONCERNING ECONOMIES ELSEWHERE WAS VERY IMPORTANT BECAUSE MONEY HAD NOT BEEN SET ASIDE FOR ARS IN MANY COUNTRIES. CONSEQUENTLY, THE PRIORITIES FURNISHED BY THE MC WILL BE IMPORTANT IF COUNTRIES ARE TO ADJUST THEIR PLANS AND PROCUREMENT BUDGETS. DR TUCKER STATED THAT THE QUESTION OF SAVINGS AND OFFSETS SHOULD BE STUDIED IN THE CONTEXT OF THE TOTAL AIR DEFENSE PROBLEM OF THE ALLIANCE. HE POINTED OUT THAT THE CNAD WOULD BE LOOKING AT THE OVERALL MIX OF INTERCEPTORS, SAMS, SHORADS AND COMMAND AND CONTROL SYSTEMS WITH A REQUIRED INVESTMENT OF \$10-13 BILLION FOR THE NEXT DECADE; AND THAT ANY MIX WOULD BE MORE COST EFFECTIVE WITH ARS THAN WITHOUT. DR TUCKER STATED THAT WITHOUT ARS, THE REQUIRED NUMBERS OF WEAPONS IN THE MIX WOULD BE LARGER; AND THE PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS MORE DEMANDING. HE BELIEVES THAT THE TRADE-OFFS OR ECONOMIES WILL SHOW UP IN FORCE GOALS AND PLANS OVER THE NEXT DECADE WHERE FUNDS FOR A COMMON ARS COULD BE TRADED AGAINST FUNDS FOR FUTURE NATIONAL SYSTEMS. CATALANO (ITALY) AGREED WITH DE STAERCKE THAT POSSIBLE SAVINGS OR ECONOMIES IN OTHER AREAS WOULD BE AN IM-CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 NATO 02095 02 OF 02 161942Z

PORTANT FACTOR IN ATTEMPTS TO PERSUADE GOVERNMENTS TO FUND SUCH AN EXPENSIVE SYSTEM.

9. DE ROSE (FRANCE) STATED THAT HE APPRECIATED HEARING THIS REPORT IN THE COUNCIL ALTHOUGH IT NORMALLY WOULD HAVE BEEN A SUBJECT FOR THE DPC, AND POINTED OUT THAT FRANCE PARTICIPATED IN THE CNAD AND WAS FOLLOWING DEVELOPMENTS THERE. SYG LUNS SAID THAT FUTURE REPORTS WOULD PROBABLY GO TO THE DPC BUT HE WOULD INSURE THAT FRANCE AND GREECE WERE MADE AWARE OF THE RESULTS.

10. DISCUSSION OF THE SUBJECT WAS TERMINATED WITH A
COMMENT BY HILL-NORTON THAT THE RUSSIANS ARE WELL AWARE
OF THE GAP IN NADGE RADAR COVERAGE. IF NATO CLOSES THE
GAP, IT WOULD BE AN IMPORTANT AND VISIBLE IMPROVEMENT
IN NATO'S DETERRENCE.BRUCE

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